

INTERNATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY ART

2 - 26 September 2015

Opening Reception --- Saturday, 1 September 6-9pm

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Twelve Artists Selected by Prestigious Jury To Exhibit In New Orleans

JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY is pleased to announce the 19th Annual **NO DEAD ARTISTS** *International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Art*. The exhibition will be on view from 2 through 26 September 2015, with an **opening reception on Saturday, 5 September**, from 6-9 pm where several of the artists will be present.

The **NO DEAD ARTISTS** exhibition was founded by Ferrara in 1995 to give a voice to emerging artists. The exhibition's name is derived from the old adage that artists never achieve success until they are dead. **NO DEAD ARTISTS** turns that notion on its head and gives emerging artists their first break in the art world. In the 90's, the exhibition was open only to New Orleans-based artists and subsequently grew to include artists of Louisiana. In 2010, the exhibition expanded to become a national juried exhibition open to artists from the entire US, and finally in 2014 the exhibition went *international*.

The exhibition has been a springboard for numerous artists leading to national press coverage, recognition, gallery representation and acquisitions by museums and other prominent collections. Each year the gallery invites a panel of renowned arts professionals and collectors to select the newest creative talents; the exhibition draws a crowd of thousands interested in discovering the work of this selected group of emerging artists. The exhibition serves as a rite of passage for many artists, some of whom are developing their initial relationship with a commercial gallery.

Now in its 19th iteration, the exhibition has been a springboard for numerous artists leading to national press coverage, recognition, gallery representation and acquisitions by museums and other prominent collections. Each year gallery owner Jonathan Ferrara invites a panel of renowned arts professionals and collectors to select the newest creative talents. Past jurors have included *Prospect.1* Founder and Curator Dan Cameron, Museum Director Billie Milam Weisman, Collector and Philanthropist Beth Rudin DeWoody, MacArthur Fellow John Scott, Whitney Trustee and Ballroom Marfa Co-founder Fairfax Dorn, NOMA Director Susan Taylor, artist Tony Fitzpatrick, Director of the Andy Warhol Museum Eric Shiner, Director of the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas and Founder and Artistic Director of the VOLTA Fair Amanda Coulson, Dishman Art Museum Director Megan Koza Young, ArtBridge Curator Jordana Zeldin, Collector and MoMA Board Member Lawrence Benenson, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston Director Bill Arning, Brooklyn Museum of Art Board of Directors Stephanie Ingrassia, and Collector, Hedge Fund Partner and Prospect New Orleans Biennial board member Nick Mayor.

For the 2015 edition, three renowned arts professionals served as the **NO DEAD ARTISTS** jury :::

MAX FISHKO --- Max is a third generation gallerist from New York City and the grandson of Bella Fishko, founder of Forum Gallery, which is now run by his parents. Max entered the art fair business at the age of 14 when he was an assistant to the sign maker for Art Miami. Since then, he has worked in various capacities for dozens of production companies. Max Fishko currently directs **Art Market Productions'** seven fairs including **Miami Project**, **Art on Paper** (NYC and Miami), **Seattle Art Fair**, **Art Market San Francisco**, **Texas Contemporary** (Houston) and **Market Art + Design** (South Hamptons).

VALÉRIE CASSELL OLIVER --- Valerie is the senior curator at the **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston**. Prior to her tenure at CAMH she was director of the Visiting Artist Program at the **School of the Art Institute of Chicago** and a program specialist at the **National Endowment for the Arts**. Cassel Oliver has lectured widely and published extensively. In 2000, she was one of six curators selected to organize the **Biennial for the Whitney Museum of American Art** in New York. In 2007, she received a **Getty Curatorial Research Fellowship** for initial research for the exhibition on Benjamin Patterson and was a fellow at the Center for



Curatorial Leadership in 2009. In 2011, she was awarded the prestigious David C. Driskell Award for her scholarly excellence and contribution to the field of African American art and culture.

DAVID WORKMAN --- David is an active member and supporter of numerous museums, artist collectives and arts organizations (inter)nationally including **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art** (founding member) **New Orleans Museum of Art**, and **Ogden Museum of Southern Art**. He is a private collector and serves as a board member of **Prospect Biennial** and **Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans**.

Of the approximate 2,500 artworks submitted to this jury by over 500 artists worldwide, only twelve artists were selected to have their work exhibited at JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY.

The 19thth Annual ***NO DEAD ARTISTS*** :::

JOHN ANDERSON ||| Roslindale, MA

REBECCA KUZEMCHAK ||| New York, NY

RACHEL BORGMAN ||| Baltimore, MD

MICHELLE RAMIN ||| San Francisco, CA

JUSTIN GAFFREY ||| Santa Rosa Beach, FL

KIM RICE ||| Norman, Oklahoma

RICHELLE GRIBBLE ||| Idyllwild, CA

HERB ROE ||| Lafayette, Louisiana

TERI HAVENS ||| Carbondale, CO

BETH WALDMAN ||| San Francisco, CA

JOO LEE KANG ||| Boston, MA

MARGI WEIR ||| Detroit, MI

Comprised of painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, conceptual, installation, and cutting-edge, digital mediums, **NO DEAD ARTISTS** is an exhibition known for a great diversity in media but with a cohesive cross-section of the *pulse* of Contemporary Art. The 2015 installment features over 40 artworks ranging in medium and style from Richelle Gribble's metaphysical, 365-panel, mixed media "Networked Life" installation to Beth Waldman's architectural and abstract, collaged paintings on canvas. Other highlights from the exhibition include Michelle Ramin's figurative, watercolor and colored-pencil on paper works and Joo Lee Kang's animalia works of ink on paper drawings, wallpaper installation and large-scale sculpture. Returning for the third year in a row, Margi Weir's typically site-specific vinyl works will now be exhibited as individual works on plexiglass. All of these works and much more will fill the entire gallery space for the month of September.

In addition to having their works exhibited at JONATHAN FERRARA GALLERY, selected jury winners will be featured in a review by D. Eric Bookhardt, critic for *Gambit Weekly* and regional editor of *Artpapers*. The article will be featured on his blog *New Orleans Art Insider*, followed by a condensed editorial in *The Gambit*.

For the grand prize of the exhibition, one of the selected jury winning artists will be awarded a **solo exhibition in 2016 at JFG**. The 2012 winner was Boston-based artist **Nikki Rosato** whose hand cut road map artwork has now been exhibited in not only the solo show at gallery, but also, art fairs in New York City, Miami, Basel (Switzerland), San Francisco, Houston and Seattle. These opportunities have garnered much interest from Curators and Museums, with museum exhibitions opening in New York City and New Orleans in the coming months. Likewise, the 2014 winner is Indianapolis-based artist **Marna Shopoff** whose work was exhibited in the gallery for the month of August 2015, opening in conjunction with *Whitney White Linen Night*, which brought 50,000 people through the gallery. With the overwhelming success of the exhibition, Shopoff's work is certain to be included in the gallery's rotation of art fair participation and bring similar career advancements to those of Rosato. Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2015 winner at the close of the exhibition.

For more information, press or sales inquiries please contact the gallery director Matthew Weldon Showman at 504.522.5471 or email matthew@jonathanferraragallery.com.